



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper



Former President Donald Trump arrives to speak at an event at Mar-a-Lago, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, in Palm Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Trump's tax returns released after long fight with Congress

Associated Press

Democrats in Congress released thousands of pages of former President Donald Trump's tax returns Friday, providing the most detailed picture to date of his finances over a six-year period, including his time in the White House, when he fought to keep the information private in a break with decades of precedent.

The documents include individual returns

from Trump and his wife, Melania, along with Trump's business entities from 2015-2020. They show how Trump used the tax code to lower his tax obligation and reveal details about foreign accounts, charitable contributions and the performance of some of his highest-profile business ventures, which had largely remained shielded from public scrutiny.

Continued on Page 2

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Trump's tax returns released after long fight with Congress

Continued from Front

The disclosure marks the culmination of a yearslong legal fight that has played out everywhere from the presidential campaign to Congress and the Supreme Court as Trump persistently rejected efforts to share details about his financial history — counter to the practice of transparency followed by all his predecessors in the post-Watergate era. The records release comes just days before Republicans retake control of the House and weeks after Trump began another campaign for the White House.

The records show how Trump limited his tax liability by offsetting his income against corporate losses as well as millions of dollars in businesses expenses, asset depreciation and other deductions.

While Trump paid \$641,931 in federal income taxes in 2015, the year he began his campaign for president, he paid just \$750 in 2016 and 2017, according to a report released last week by Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation. He paid nearly \$1 million in 2018, but only \$133,445 in 2019 and nothing in 2020, the year he unsuccessfully sought reelection.

The records also detail Trump's foreign holdings. Trump, according to the filings, reported having bank accounts in China, Ireland and the United Kingdom in 2015 through 2017, even as he was commander in chief. Starting in 2018, however, he only reported an account in the U.K. The returns also show that Trump claimed foreign tax credits for taxes he paid on various business ventures around the world, including licensing arrangements for use of his name on development projects and his golf courses in Scotland and Ireland. In 2018, according to Joint Committee on Taxation figures, Trump paid more in foreign taxes than he did net federal income taxes. The documents show that Trump's charitable donations fluctuated during his



House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., talks to the media after the House Ways & Means Committee voted on whether to publicly release years of former President Donald Trump's tax returns during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 20, 2022. Left is Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., and right is Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif.

presidency but, in his final years, represented only a sliver of his income. In 2020, the year the coronavirus ravaged the economy, Trump reported no charitable donations at all. In 2019 and 2018 he reported writing checks for about \$500,000 in donations. In earlier years the numbers were higher -- \$1.8 million in 2017 and \$1.1 million in 2016. The release marks the latest setback for Trump, who has been mired in investigations, including federal and state inquiries into his efforts to overturn the 2020 election. The Department of Justice also has been investigating reams of classified documents found at his Mar-a-Lago club and possible efforts to obstruct the investigation. In a statement Friday, Trump lashed out at Democrats and the Supreme Court for the release.

"It's going to lead to horrible things for so many people," he said. "The radical, left Democrats have weaponized everything, but remember, that is a dangerous two-way street!" He said the returns demonstrated "how proudly successful I have been and how I have been able to use depreciation and various other tax deductions" to build his businesses.

For instance, in 2020, more than 150 of Trump's business entities listed negative qualified business income,

which the IRS defines as "the net amount of qualified items of income, gain, deduction and loss from any qualified trade or business." In total for that tax year, combined with nearly \$9 million in carryforward loss from previous years, Trump's qualified losses amounted to more than \$58 million for the final year of his term in office. Another of Trump's money losers: the ice rink his company operated until last year in New York City's Central Park. Trump reported a total of \$2.6 million in losses from Wollman Rink over the six years made public. The rink, an early Trump Organization jewel run through a contract with New York City's government, reported a loss of \$1.3 million in 2015 despite taking in \$9.3 million in revenue, according to the tax returns. The rink turned a \$298,000 profit in 2016, but was back to melting cash in each of the next four years.

Aspects of Trump's finances had been shrouded in mystery since his days as an up-and-coming Manhattan real estate developer in the 1980s. Trump, known for building skyscrapers and hosting a reality TV show before winning the White House, did provide limited details

about his holdings and income on mandatory disclosure forms and financial statements he provides to banks to secure loans and to financial magazines to justify his place on rankings of the world's billionaires. Trump's longtime accounting firm has since disavowed the statements, and New York Attorney General Letitia James has filed a lawsuit alleging Trump and his Trump Organization fraudulently inflated asset values on the statements. Trump and his company have denied wrongdoing.

In October 2018, The New York Times published a Pulitzer Prize-winning series based on leaked tax records that contradicted the image Trump had tried to sell of himself as a self-made businessman. It showed that Trump received a modern-day equivalent of at least \$413 million from his father's real estate holdings, with much of that money coming from what the Times called "tax dodges" in the 1990s.

A second series in 2020 showed that Trump paid no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years because he generally lost more money than he made. In its report last week, the Ways and Means Committee indicated the Trump administration may have disregarded a requirement mandating audits of a president's tax filings. The IRS only began to audit Trump's 2016 tax filings on April 3, 2019 — more than two years into his presidency — when the Ways and Means chairman, Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., asked the agency for information related to the tax returns.

Every president and major-party candidate since Richard Nixon has voluntarily made at least summaries of their tax information available to the public. Trump bucked that trend as a candidate and as president, repeatedly asserting that his taxes were "under audit" and couldn't be released. □

Associated Press

Mass shootings compound loss felt by marginalized groups

By SHARON JOHNSON
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Pulse was more than a safe space for Brandon Wolf and his friends. The nightclub was a haven for members of Orlando, Florida's LGBTQ community a place to be themselves without fear.

"It's probably the first place I ever held hands with somebody I had a crush on," Wolf said. "Without looking over my shoulder first, it's one of the first places I ever wore my skinniest pair of jeans without being afraid of what someone might call me."

On June 12, 2016, a gunman targeting the club's patrons killed 49 people there, including two of Wolf's best friends, and wounded 53. "It's left such a hole in our hearts," Wolf said.

After mass shootings, the loss felt by marginalized groups already facing discrimination is compounded. Some public health experts say the risk for mental health issues is greater for these groups communities of color and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community among them.

The trauma is especially acute when the shootings happen at schools, churches, clubs or other places that previously served as pillars of those communities welcoming and accepting



Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the Pulse nightclub shooting and activist, stands outside of the Pulse memorial in Orlando, Fla., on Sept. 9, 2022.

spaces that are difficult to replace due to a lack of resources or the sociological and historical impact they have had.

"Folks from marginalized communities are already dealing with the burden of discrimination and racism and the emotional toll that they take," said Dr. Sarah Lowe, a professor with the Yale School of Public Health and a clinical psychologist who has researched the long-term mental health consequences of mass shootings and other traumatic events. "All these other stressors can not only increase risk for mental

health problems following a mass shooting, but they also increase risk for further loss of resources."

As a result, there is the potential for members of such marginalized communities to leave or for the community itself to shut down, said Alan Wolfelt, a grief counselor and educator at the Center for Loss and Life Transition in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"That is why it is vital to support these communities, acknowledge their grief openly and honestly, and then help them rebuild their community in terms of meaning and purpose

while realizing they have been totally transformed," said Wolfelt, who provides mental health services and education for individuals and communities that have experienced loss.

Club Q, a gay nightclub in Colorado, says it will eventually reopen at the same location, but with a new design and a permanent memorial, to honor five people killed last month in a targeted shooting. Club Q was a sanctuary for the LGBTQ community in the mostly conservative city of Colorado Springs, patrons said.

Pulse will not reopen. The

site where it operated is now a memorial, and supporters plan to convert it into a permanent museum. The club's closure has deeply scarred the LGBTQ community, which has tried to "re-create the sense of belonging" that Pulse had, Wolf said.

"I live next to a few other LGBTQ establishments and those are really important, but there was something truly special about Pulse and the community that we were able to create here," he said.

"For communities like ours, safe spaces are lifelines. They're the refuges we carve out in a world that threatens violence against us every time we walk out the door."

In some cases, traumatic events threaten basic necessities for marginalized groups, increasing the risk for mental health issues, said Lowe, the clinical psychologist.

Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, New York, was closed for two months after 10 Black shoppers and workers were fatally shot during a racist rampage. During that time, there was no grocery store on the East Side. Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, was founded in 1816 and became a pillar of the African American community in the state's Lowcountry region. □

Kentucky, Ohio get \$1.6B to fix overloaded bridge, add span



Traffic on the Brent Spence Bridge passes in front of the Cincinnati skyline while crossing the Ohio River to and from Covington, Ky., Oct. 7, 2014.

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Kentucky and Ohio will get more than \$1.63 billion in federal grants to help build a new Ohio River bridge near Cincinnati and improve the existing overloaded span there, a heavily used freight route linking the Midwest and the South, officials announced Thursday. Congestion at the Brent Spence Bridge on Interstates 75 and 71 has for years been a frustration for travelers, a bottleneck on a key shipping corridor and thus a symbol of the nation's growing infrastruc-

ture needs. Officials say the bridge was built in the 1960s to carry around 80,000 vehicles a day but has seen double that traffic load on its narrow lanes, leading the Federal Highway Administration to declare it functionally obsolete.

The planned project covers about 8 miles (12 kilometers) and includes improvements to the bridge and some connecting roads and construction of a companion span nearby. The two states coordinated to request funding under the bipartisan infrastruc-

ture deal signed last year by President Joe Biden, a Democrat who had touted the project while the legislation was under consideration. The companion bridge "will be one of the bill's crowning accomplishments," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in a statement Thursday.

Kentucky's Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear called the funding "one of the largest grants in U.S. history" and said it will help build the new bridge without tolls. □

Suspect in deaths of Idaho students arrested in Pennsylvania

By **MARC LEVY, REBECCA BOONE and MIKE BALSAMO**
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Authorities in Pennsylvania arrested a suspect in the killings of four University of Idaho students who were found stabbed to death in their beds more than a month ago, a law enforcement official said Friday. Arrest paperwork filed in Monroe County Court said Bryan Christopher Kohberger, 28, was being held for extradition to Idaho on a warrant for first degree murder.

The killings initially mystified law enforcement and shook the small town of Moscow, Idaho, a farming community of about 25,000 people that had not had a murder for five years. Fears of a repeat attack prompted nearly half of the University of Idaho's over 11,000 students to leave the city and switch to online classes.

A law enforcement official confirmed the arrest to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the official could not publicly discuss details of the investigation ahead of a



This photo provided by Monroe County (Pa.) Correctional Facility shows Bryan Kohberger. Associated Press

formal announcement expected later Friday. A Ph.D. student by the same name is listed in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University, which is a short drive across the state line from the University of Idaho. Messages seeking more information were left for officials at WSU. DeSales University in Pennsylvania confirmed that a student by that name received a bachelor's degree in 2020 and completed graduate

studies in June 2022. The Idaho students Kaylee Goncalves, Madison Mogen, Xana Kernodle and Ethan Chapin were stabbed to death at a rental home near campus sometime in the early morning hours of Nov. 13. Investigators were unable to name a suspect or locate a murder weapon for weeks. But the case broke open after law enforcement asked the public for help finding a white sedan seen near the home around the time of

the killings. The Moscow Police Department made the request Dec. 7, and by the next day had to direct tips to a special FBI call center because so many were coming in. Goncalves, 21, of Rathdrum, Idaho; Mogen, 21, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Kernodle, 20, of Post Falls, Idaho; and Chapin, 20, of Conway, Washington, were members of the university's Greek system and close friends. Mogen, Goncalves and Kernodle lived in the three-story rental home

with two other roommates. Kernodle and Chapin were dating and he was visiting the house that night. Autopsies showed all four were likely asleep when they were attacked. Some had defensive wounds and each was stabbed multiple times. There was no sign of sexual assault, police said. Police said Thursday the rental home would be cleared of "potential bio-hazards and other harmful substances" to collect evidence starting Friday morning. It was unclear how long the work would take, but a news release said the house would be returned to the property manager upon completion. Shanon Gray, an attorney representing Goncalves's father, Steve Goncalves, said law enforcement officials called the family last night to let them know about the arrest, but gave no additional information about how or why they believe he might be connected to the murders. "Obviously they're relieved that someone has been arrested," Gray said. "You guys know about as much as we do right now." □

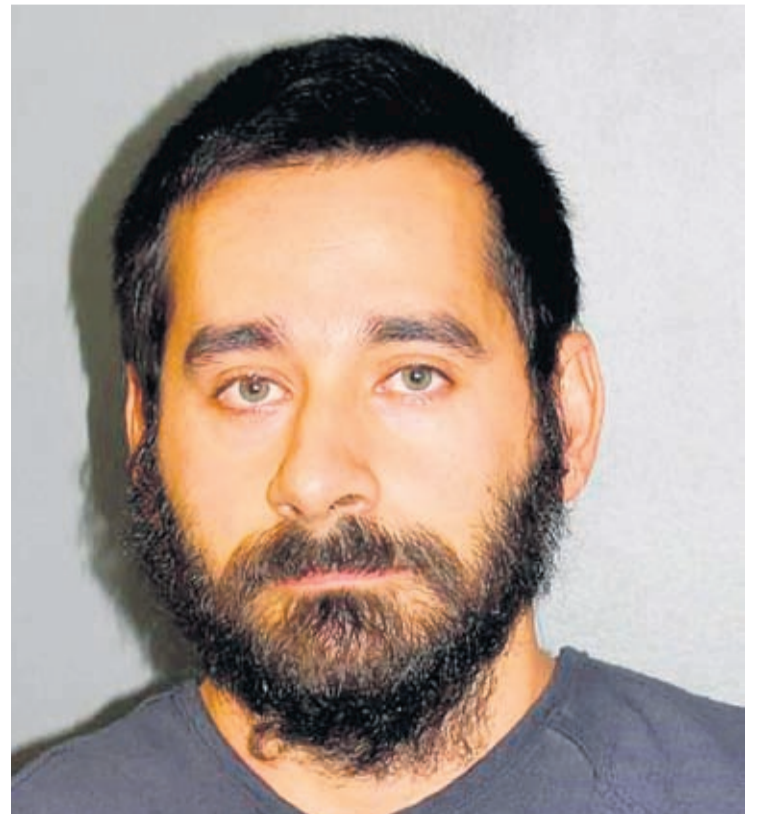
Judge: Voting machine tampering suspect is incompetent

By **COLLEEN SLEVIN**
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A man accused of tampering with a voting machine during Colorado's primary election is mentally incompetent and cannot continue with court proceedings, a judge ruled Thursday. At the request of Richard Patton's lawyer and prosecutors, Judge William Alexander also ordered that Patton undergo outpatient mental health treatment in hopes of making him well enough so he can be prosecuted. The judge's ruling followed an evaluation by an expert who found that Patton was mentally incompetent. To be considered legally competent to proceed, people accused of crimes must

be deemed able to understand proceedings and help in their own defense by being able to communicate with their lawyers. Patton's lawyer had requested the evaluation but no details about why have been released. Patton has not been asked to enter a plea yet and the case against him will not resume until he is found to be competent. Patton was arrested Nov. 3 and later charged with tampering with voting equipment, which state lawmakers this year made a felony punishable by up to three years in prison. It was formerly a misdemeanor offense with a penalty of up to 364 days in jail. June 28. He made some poll workers nervous after

asking about what kind of security there was at the voting center because of threats that had been made against election workers. An election worker escorted Patton to a voting machine, showed him how to use it, and he was able to use it to fill out a ballot and print out a marked paper ballot to cast, investigators said. After Patton voted, a person who went to clean the voting machine discovered an error message saying that a USB device had been detected, according to the affidavit. Other election workers said the security seal on the machine was either damaged or had been tampered with and a USB port pulled out, it said. □



This Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022, booking photo provided by the Pueblo County, Colo., Sheriff's Office shows 31-year-old Richard Patton, who was arrested Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022, on suspicion of tampering with voting equipment.

Associated Press

Beijing gives Hong Kong leader more power in security cases

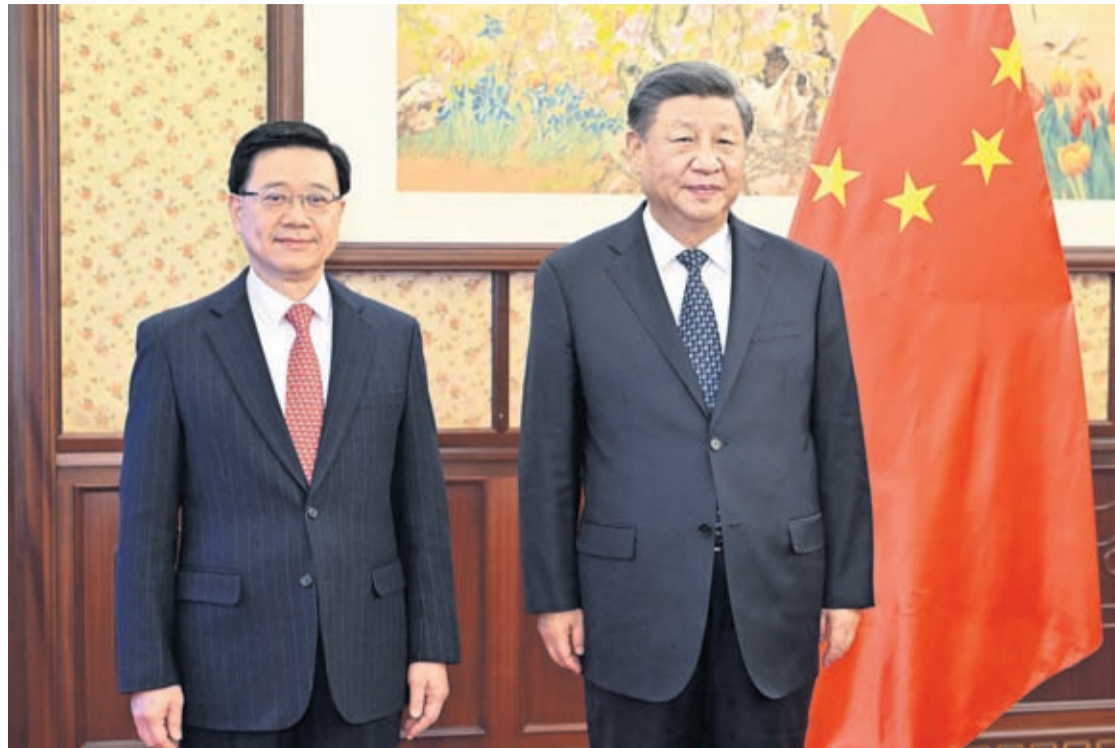
By KANIS LEUNG

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Beijing ruled Friday that Hong Kong's leader has the power to decide whether foreign lawyers can be involved in national security cases in the city — a decision that could effectively block a prominent pro-democracy publisher from hiring a British barrister for his high-profile trial.

China's top legislative body made a legal interpretation that targets overseas lawyers who do not normally practice in the city, according to China's Xinhua news agency. Its decision could overturn an earlier ruling by Hong Kong's top court to let Jimmy Lai, the founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily, employ Timothy Owen to defend him against collusion charges under a Beijing-imposed National Security Law.

Friday's ruling marks the sixth time the Communist-ruled national government has stepped into the legal affairs of the former British colony, which was promised a "high degree of autonomy" and judicial independence for 50 years when it returned to China



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, stands next to Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee before a meeting in Beijing, on Dec. 23, 2022.

Associated Press

in 1997.

Beijing was addressing the request filed by Hong Kong leader John Lee, who sought a legal interpretation hours after the city's highest court rejected government objections against letting Owen represent Lai. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress said the city's courts have to obtain a certificate from the city leader on whether foreign lawyers

could handle such cases, according to the state media report.

If the courts didn't, then the city's committee for safeguarding national security, chaired by the city leader, should make the decision, it added.

Asked on his certification process, Lee said he would look at all the information available to him to assess whether a particular activity relates to national securi-

ty or any evidence involves state secrets when such questions arise in courts.

"The power to make such a decision has been clearly stipulated since the enactment of the National Security Law. So the legal interpretation has not given the chief executive more powers," he said at a press briefing.

He said the government would proactively consider amending the Legal Practi-

tioners Ordinance and enact the city's own national security legislation as soon as possible.

The government's 2003 attempt to set up its own security laws, which is required by the city's constitution, was abandoned in the face of huge protests.

Eric Lai, a fellow at Georgetown Center for Asian Law, said the legal interpretation has damaged the city's judicial independence because it allows the national security committee to overturn the final court's decision. "Although the content of this legal interpretation appears brief, the massive arbitrary power granted to the committee is a devastation to Hong Kong's rule of law and judicial independence," he said.

In national security cases, defendants' right to pick their lawyers is now being controlled by the administrative branch, he added. The National Security Law criminalizes acts of succession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces.

It has led to the arrests of many prominent democracy activists and damaged faith in the future of the international financial hub. □

Brazil will have first Indigenous woman chief for key post

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

— Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced Thursday that Sônia Guajajara will head up a new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, with a mandate to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care.

Guajajara was elected to Congress in October. She is widely known as the leader of the main umbrella group for Brazil's many Indigenous tribes and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara. This year she made Time Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people.

"This is more than a personal achievement," Guajajara said. "It is a collective achievement of the Indig-

enous peoples, a historic moment of reparation in Brazil." The creation of the ministry is "a confirmation of Lula's commitment to us," she said in a tweet.

Lula promised to create the Indigenous cabinet department during his presidential campaign. On Jan. 1 he returns to power, having previously governed Brazil from 2003 to 2010.

The appointment of Guajajara to such a post marks a 180 degree turn from Brazil's current government. Outgoing president Jair Bolsonaro, defeated in October, is an opponent of Indigenous rights and land with a record of racist statements. In 1998, when he was still a fringe lawmaker, he spoke in Brazil's Congress praising the U.S. Cavalry for having

"decimated its Indians" and regretted Brazil had not done the same.

Bolsonaro's promises to develop the Amazon and his defanging of environmental law enforcement led to a surge of illegal loggers, miners and land robbers into Native territory in Brazil. According to local Indigenous organizations, some 20,000 illegal gold miners now operate illegally in Yanomami tribal territory alone.

Guajajara fiercely opposed attempts to legalize these policies, and that opposition was largely successful. She also experienced the murders in 2019 and 2020 of five fellow tribe members who fought against illegal loggers.

After the official announce-

ment of her appointment and 15 others in the capital of Brasilia Thursday, several Indigenous organizations, among them the Coordi-

nation of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, congratulated her in social media for the nomination. □



Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his newly-named Minister of Indigenous Peoples Sonia Guajajara, pose for photos during a meeting where he announced the ministers for his incoming government, in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

Israel indicts soldiers for trying to bomb Palestinian home

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military said its prosecutor has filed indictments against two soldiers who allegedly hurled an explosive device at a Palestinian home in the occupied West Bank, a rare instance of Israeli troops facing serious charges over an offense against Palestinians. Prosecutors charged the two soldiers with making an explosive device, aggravated intentional assault, intentional harm to property and impeaching the investigation, the army announced late Thursday. The court ordered the soldiers to remain in detention until a hearing next month. They were arrested on Nov. 28. The indictment said the two defendants acted out of revenge for the abduction of the body of an Israeli schoolboy in the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin on Nov. 22. Palestinian militants in Jenin had snatched the body of 17-year-old Tiran Fero, a member of Israel's Druze Arab minority, from a local hospital where he was receiving treatment after a car crash. Fero's father accused the militants of removing his son from his life-support machine while he was still alive. The Israeli military had said he was al-



Members of the Israeli Druze minority mourn around the body of Tiran Fero, 17, during his funeral in Daliyat al-Carmel, Israel, on Nov. 24, 2022.

ready dead when the militants took him. The seizure of the boy's body spread alarm among Israel's Druze community. As anger rose, videos circulated on social media of Druze men threatening to take revenge against Palestinians. Police said Druze villagers even attacked and tied up three Palestinian laborers in northern Israel. Amid the standoff over Fero's body, the two defendants reportedly Druze soldiers teamed up with another soldier to assem-

ble an explosive device, the military said on Thursday. The soldiers identified a Palestinian home near the West Bank city of Bethlehem as their target and lobbed stones at it. A few days later, they threw the explosive into the crowded house "with the intent of starting a fire in the home," the military added. The military said the attack caused no casualties. It said it opened an investigation into the incident following a complaint from the Palestinian homeowner.

The military said it would issue an indictment against the third soldier in the coming days. The three soldiers were not named. The military did not comment on the penalties they could face. Such a swift military prosecution is highly unusual and underscored the seriousness of the case. Rights groups long have alleged that Israeli military investigations into the killings of Palestinians reflect a pattern of impunity. Earlier this month, Israeli human rights group Yesh Din reported

that Israeli soldiers accused of harming Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the last five years have been indicted in less than 1% of the 1,260 complaints against them. Critics have repeatedly accused Israeli forces of using excessive firepower in the West Bank as violence in the occupied territory reaches its highest level in years. The Israeli military has conducted near-daily raids into Palestinian cities and towns, killing more than 150 Palestinians. The Israeli army says most of the Palestinians killed have been militants. But stonethrowing youths protesting the incursions and others not involved in confrontations have also been killed. Meanwhile, Palestinian attacks using knives, bombs and shootings have killed 29 Israelis in 2022, both soldiers and civilians, Israel's Foreign Ministry reported. Most of the Palestinians were killed during Israeli military raids and fighting in the northern West Bank cities of Jenin and Nablus. On Friday, the Israeli military said it entered Nablus to arrest Ahmed Massari, a wanted 19-year-old Palestinian militant from the Lion's Den group, a new militant group led by young fighters from the city. □

Associated Press

Divisive social media star Andrew Tate detained in Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— Andrew Tate, a divisive social media personality and former professional kickboxer, was detained in Romania on charges of human trafficking and rape, an official said Friday. Tate, a British-U.S. citizen who previously was banned from various social media platforms for expressing misogynistic views and hate speech, was detained late Thursday for 24 hours along with his brother Tristan in the Ilfov area north of Romania's capital, Bucharest. Ramona Bolla, a spokesperson from Romania's anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, confirmed their arrest in a phone call with The

Associated Press on Friday, and said prosecutors have asked a judge at the Bucharest tribunal to extend the arrest warrant to 30 days. She said a decision is expected later Friday. DIICOT said in a statement late Thursday that the four suspects in the case, which include two British citizens and two Romanians, were arrested on charges of being part of an organized crime group, human trafficking and rape. The agency said the British citizens recruited women who were subjected to "acts of physical violence and mental coercion," sexually exploited by group members and forced to

perform pornographic acts intended to reap "important financial benefits." The statement didn't name the Tate brothers. Photographs published by Romanian media outlets appeared to show Tate being led away in handcuffs by masked law enforcement officers. DIICOT said it identified six people who were sexually exploited by the organized criminal group, and that five homes were raided on Thursday. On Friday, Andrew Tate, who is known to express various conspiratorial views, tweeted that "The Matrix sent their agents," without elaborating.

Earlier this week, Tate posted a video on Twitter of a mountainous region of Romania, the Eastern Euro-

pean country where he is reported to have lived for the last five years. □



In this grab taken from video released by Observator Antena 1, Social Media personality Andrew Tate is led away by police, in the Ilfov area, north of Bucharest, Romania, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

50th Edition of Dande Festival celebrated with great talent

ORANJESTAD – After 7pm at Club Caquetio in Paradera, the year-end folklore and tradition resonated under the organization of Harry Croes, commemorating 50 years of this tradition, giving Aruba the opportunity to celebrate the culture of our island with a Dande Festival.

Dande

The most traditional cultural intangible heritage Aruba has throughout the Christmas season is called Dande. The Dande is a local oral tradition where the song “ay nobe” (aña nobo) – “new year” is performed as the New Year is approaching or has arrived. Dande stems from the word Dandalia, which loosely translates into “to party, he who parties, or simply paranda”. The first sentence of the Dande song “oh dande nos a jega na bo porta” – Ay Nobe, translated means “Oh the party has arrived at your door” – New Year. The origin of the Dande is not known, however there are many theories such as; 1. Its starting in the district of Savaneta, 2. Its starting in the district of Noord, 3. Its popularity strengthened in the district of St. Cruz, or 4. Its starting after the abolition of slavery in 1863 by the Dutch King.

A group of five or sometimes even six people (one singer accompanied by numerous musicians) usually performs the most known Aruban end of the year tradition. These people, usually family members accompany a singer and travel door-to-door to express their best wishes for the New Year in repetitive phrases (blessings), with a chorus that includes the phrase “ay nobe” (aña nobo) – “new year” – sung after each blessing. Currently, the celebratory travel usually leads to the houses of the singers’ friends and family, where the singer collects money in his hat to give to the group. Traditionally the removal of the singer’s hat is considered a sign of respect he/she



is expressing to the family and person they are singing to and blessing. Instead of money, back in the day, the singer would receive food (for example pan du-

shi “sweet bread”) in their hat as a token of gratitude for their long trip. The singer starts by blessing the head of the house and then one by one passes to every per-



son present. Besides visiting local houses on New Year’s Eve and the day after, the Dande tradition is very popular on the last working day of the year. Local businesses invite a Dande group to come and bless their workers and the company as the New Year approaches.

Winners

In the adult category, the winners for 2022 are:

- Dande Queen 2022:
 1. Mary Jane Vrolijk
 2. Jerwin Hernandez
 3. Quincy Hasham

King of Kings Dande 2022

1. Jason Kelly
 2. Jonathan Croes
 3. Eric E Ras

Own composition:

1. Robert Junior Maduro
 2. Mario Kelly Jr.

Tipico:

1. Agrupacion Stima mi
 2. Agrupacion Sabor Crioyo
 3. Agrupacion Sonido di Antaño

Congratulations to all participants in the Dande Festival 2022, in the adult as well as children and youth categories, who showed their best and their talents on stage to keep Aruba’s culture and tradition alive during the year-end celebrations.

Images from the Department of Culture of Aruba. □



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Be extra careful with fireworks!

ORANJESTAD - The Department of Public Health (DVG) wishes everyone a safe and responsible New Year's celebration.

They urge the community to limit their alcohol consumption during the festive days and be responsible when driving. They also urge NOT to handle fireworks when under the influence of alcohol.

The holiday season brings joy to many people, but keep the following in mind:

- Do not allow unsupervised children to handle fireworks;
- use ear protection, especially for children under the age of 14;
- do not put fireworks in your pockets or backpack;
- keep enough distance from fireworks when lit, at least 8 meters;
- do not light fireworks in your hands;
- always light fireworks with the lighter fuse;
- do not throw fireworks on others or near animals;
- do not re-light malfunctioning fireworks;
- do not experiment with fireworks;
- when done, soak the area before

cleaning up. By following these recommendations, everyone can enjoy the end of the year safely and happily.

We should also look out for our furry loved ones. Loud unexpected firework sounds can scare even the most relaxed dog or cat. Why? Dogs hear sounds four times louder, whereas cats can hear sounds almost ten times louder than humans.

Some pets find shelter at home during the New Year's celebration, while many get desperate and flee their homes and the sounds.

Some dogs like fireworks and try to grab the lit fireworks with their mouths. These can cause burns that will require emergency vet intervention.

That is pet owners must be extra vigilant with their pets around the fireworks.

How to keep your pets safe around fireworks:

- Keep your pets indoors at a safe location during the use of fireworks.
- turn on a radio or TV to distract the pets;
- stay close to them and keep them



busy; provide extra attention that they deserve.

The pet's fear can cause them to find a way out of the yard while trying to find shelter from the loud sounds.

There are some ways to find the pets back in the event they run away;

Make sure your pet has a tag on its collar with your information. It is advisable to have the pet microchipped at the vet.

A microchip will give your pet an identification number that can be useful when tracking if they run off.

When found, a vet can scan the microchip and locate the owner. Ask your vet if tranquilizers are optional for your pets. Tranquilizers need to be administered only if necessary and in the correct doses.

If the pet is not microchipped, take a recent photo of the pet to use if it is lost. Make sure the information of the Microchipped pet is accurate and up to date, including current address and phone number.

The DVG wishes Aruba a responsible end-of-year celebration and wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous 2023. ☐



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory or better yet, the way in which YOU welcomed 2023 in Aruba. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

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Fruit Loose

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, es-

sential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side

landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimaruku

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimaruku. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarukus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these



berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. In-

side is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March. □



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that

indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a

fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to

cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated

"To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.



The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐

Happy New Year from Aruba Today!



Closing a 2022 full of challenges and changes, we are very thankful to you, our loyal readers and visitors for your support, as well as to our partners and advertisers. We welcome a 2023 filled with hope and strength to create a successful year, and wish you all a prosperous and healthy new year.

Taekwondo coach, Monica Pimentel:

It was a good start to have everything begin again this year

ORANJESTAD – During an interview, Taekwondo Coach, Monica Pimentel, who represented Aruba in the 2016 Olympics, told our reporter how 2022 went for Taekwondo in Aruba, as well as expectations and projects for 2023.

"This year was very busy, after two years of Covid, everything restarted and it was really busy, both in Aruba as abroad, with competitions", she commented. She explained that this year there were various achievements, but the biggest one was the Panamerican medal of Anabella Fernandez in the cadette category, which is a continental medal for Aruba.



Pimentel explained that they closed a group that is travelling internationally, and this is the Taekwondo Team Aruba. In this group they guide children who already have a high level nationally to begin competing internationally.

She explained that they gave the name Taekwondo Team Aruba to the project of this team in order to achieve more exposure. "We created a new logo, the kids have their uniform and this way they are more recognizable."

Pimentel also travels with the Klaber brothers, Joshua and Jourde, who are in the Aruban team for different competitions. She commented that the preparation of the Klaber brothers is wider, they have a many more competitions and their goals are on a bigger scale. "This year they did various small competitions in the United States and also competitions in the 'ranked tournament' level, and they even participated in the World competition", she added.

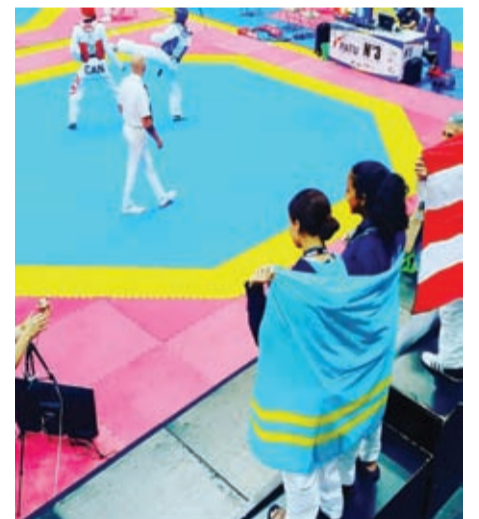
In general, Pimentel considers 2022 a good year for taekwondo in

Aruba. "Seeing that we were basically inactive for two years, it was a good start to have everything begin again this year. This year was very busy, I see that next year is going to be even busier", she commented.

Regarding next year, for the Klaber brothers and others, Pimentel said they have classifications for Central American games, for Panamerican games, another world competition and many big tournaments abroad for them. She mentioned that already in February there are three consecutive competitions, three consecutive weeks with competitions in Miami, Costa Rica and Las Vegas.

Aside from that, Pimentel said that on schedule they also have a training camp in Korea. They have a group of black belts mostly in the cadette and junior category. In this group there are mostly girls who developed really well this year, and for next year they expect to bring medals in the Panamerican level and more good results.

After this group, there is the color



belts, and these are kids that have already stood out at the national level. Pimentel explained that they are busy selecting them because right now there is even a children's Panamerican competition that began this year and will take place next year as well, so that competition begins at a very young age.

Finalizing, Pimentel thanked the people of Aruba for the support during 2022. "They help a lot with fund raising, which is very important for us to help the children travel to achieve their sports goals", she said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 See 11-Across
 - 1 Narrow passage
 - 7 Fleet unit
 - 11 With 38-Across, New Year's start
 - 12 Hunting garb, for short
 - 13 Surrounded
 - 14 Tire holders
 - 15 Pays to play
 - 16 Airport areas
 - 17 Still life fruit
 - 18 Skiing variety
 - 19 Cruise stop
 - 21 Braying beast
 - 22 New Year's Eve quaff
 - 25 Pigeon sound
 - 26 "Dear me!"
 - 27 Cry of discovery
 - 29 River vessel
 - 33 Impetus
 - 34 Bill add-on
 - 35 Tear down
 - 36 Like tears
 - 37 Composer Stravinsky
- DOWN**
- 1 Gown part
 - 2 Binding need
 - 3 Words before car or cop
 - 4 Libya neighbor
 - 5 Composer Charles
 - 6 Hall of Famer Williams
 - 7 Throw away
 - 8 Port-au-Prince native
 - 9 Enormous
 - 10 Outlaw chasers
 - 16 Gather
 - 18 Dominant
 - 20 Chimney output
 - 22 Pluck
 - 23 Distant sight
 - 24 Dian Fossey subject
 - 25 Comic dubbed "the Entertainer"
 - 28 Tennis star Chris
 - 30 Bye. in Baja
 - 31 Wield a foil
 - 32 Hard journeys
 - 34 Track event
 - 36 Lush

S	I	L	O	S		S	O	F	A	R
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Yesterday's answer

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3						14			
5					16				
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	19	20				21			
	22	23				24			
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39					40				

12-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

TQU YKOF GTU WSS: IZWBZ.

FWIKRZOO WRL IUTOIZUKMV

KR W FZWSMFV RZY VZWU.

VTQU IQDDSZ GUKZRLO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MAY YOUR COMING YEAR BE FILLED WITH MAGIC AND DREAMS AND GOOD MADNESS. — NEIL GAIMAN

Bill Gates made 2022's biggest charitable donation

By MARIA DI MENTO of The

Chronicle of Philanthropy
The Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual list of the 10 largest charitable gifts announced by individuals or their foundations totaled nearly \$9.3 billion in 2022. The contributions went to large, well-established institutions, three of them private foundations to support environmental sustainability, children's mental health, and stem-cell research. The other gifts backed cancer research and treatment, housing efforts, youth programs, and reproductive health.

Two of the gifts exceeded \$1 billion, and six of the eight donors (one donor made three gifts) are multibillionaires. The combined net worth of those six donors is just over \$325 billion. Topping the list is Bill Gates, who gave \$5 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to back the grantmaker's work in global health, development, policy and advocacy, and U.S. education. Gates, whose net worth is estimated at \$104 billion, attracted attention in July when he announced he was giving \$20 billion to the foundation he runs with his former wife, Melinda French Gates. However, foundation officials confirmed in December that three-fourths of that \$20 billion went toward paying off the \$15 billion he and French Gates had pledged in July 2021. The remaining \$5 billion was a new infusion to the foundation.

Ann and John Doerr came in second with a \$1.1 billion donation they're giving through their Benificus Foundation to Stanford



Bill Gates speaks during the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

University to launch the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, an effort to tackle the world's most urgent climate and sustainability challenges. The new school will focus on eight areas of scholarship: climate change, Earth and planetary sciences, energy technology, sustainable cities, the natural environment, food and water security, human society and behavior, and human health and the environment. The new school will house several academic departments and interdisciplinary institutes. It will also be home to a "sustainability accelerator," which, among other efforts, will award grants to researchers and others to develop new technologies in environmental sustainability and related arenas, advance new policies, and support partnerships.

John Doerr is a venture-capital investor who made his mark and much of his fortune as an early backer of Silicon Valley technology giants like Sun Microsystems, Amazon, and Google. Today he serves as chairman of the investment firm Kleiner Perkins, and his net worth stands at a little more than \$9 billion.

Coming in third are Jackie and Mike Bezos, the mother and stepfather of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The couple gave the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center \$710.5 million through their Bezos Family Foundation to build 36 research labs and an additional large research facility. The grant will also support the cancer center's clinical trials and immunotherapy research over the next 10 years.

The couple have been fairly low-profile philanthropists until recently. Yet Jackie Bezos has been closely involved in several nonprofit projects over the years. She created the Bezos Scholars Program at the Aspen Institute, the Aspen Challenge, and Students Rebuild, all of which are education programs for various age groups. Mike Bezos spent 32 years working as an engineer and manager with the oil and gas giant Exxon Mobil before retiring and turning his attention to the couple's giving.

The gifts from the Doerrs and the Bezoses were followed by one from Warren Buffett. The revered 92-year-old investor gave stock valued at nearly \$474.3 million to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, a grantmaker Warren Buffett established in 1964 to manage the family's charitable giving that was later renamed for his first wife, who died in 2004. The foundation supports women's reproductive health and provides college scholarships for students in Nebraska, where the foundation is located. □

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Warren Buffett jumps into local politics to fight streetcar

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire investor Warren Buffett broke with his practice of staying out of local politics to urge his hometown of Omaha to abandon its planned streetcar project because he says it's too expensive and not as flexible as buses.

Buffett wrote a letter to the editor of the Omaha World-Herald and met with the mayor this week to lobby against the \$306 million project and urge the city to let residents vote on it.

But city officials are moving forward with the streetcar because they believe it will spur development, including Mutual of Omaha's planned \$600 million headquarters tower downtown. Buffett said in his letter that he decided to make an exception to his policy of staying out of local issues even though "it can be off-putting to many to have a wealthy 92-year-old tell them what is good for their future." He said he wanted to weigh in on the streetcar because it's "going to be hugely expensive if implemented." "Residents can be far better served by extended or more intensive service by the bus system," Buffett wrote. "As population, commerce and desired destinations shift, a bus system can be re-engineered. Streetcars keep mindlessly rolling on, fueled by large public subsidies. Mistakes are literally cast in cement."

The proposed streetcar would start less than 20 blocks away from the midtown home Buffett has lived in for decades and run right past the headquarters of his Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate on the way downtown.

Mutual of Omaha officials said when they announced their new office tower that is expected to become their namesake city's tallest building that the new streetcar was a key part of its plan because it would provide convenient access to the new headquarters. The company declined to respond directly to Buffett's



Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, speaks during a game of bridge following the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting on May 5, 2019, in Omaha, Neb. Associated Press

criticisms Thursday. The city is banking on new tax revenue from other development expected along the streetcar line to pay for the project. And the City Council has already approved the bonds that will pay for it. Buffett said that he would vote no on the project if he was given the chance, but the city isn't required to hold an election. The project has been moving forward with little significant public opposition since it was announced in January alongside Mutual's new headquarters. Omaha Mayor Jean Sto-

thert told the Omaha World-Herald that she met with Buffett Wednesday to discuss the streetcar and development in the city. "I have great admiration for Mr. Buffett," Stothert said, "but I respectfully disagree with his position on the streetcar." Buffett's tiny headquarters staff of about two dozen people isn't likely to add to the number of people using the streetcar even if it does go right past their front door because it will only extend about seven blocks west of the office. But the conglomerate Buffett leads as chairman and

CEO owns more than 90 companies worldwide, including the BNSF railroad, Geico insurance, several major utilities and an eclectic assortment of manufacturing and retail businesses such as Dairy Queen and Precision Castparts. Berkshire also holds about \$300 billion worth of stocks, including major investments in Apple, Coca-Cola and Bank of America. □



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Analysis: With 1 more game, more teams in NFL playoff race

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

With two weeks remaining in the NFL season, only eight teams have been eliminated from the playoff race.

That's why the league added a 17th game and a third wild-card team last year, plus the revenue gained by another game.

More teams are still playing to get in the tournament or trying to secure a higher seed with one more game to help them earn it.

Eleven teams have already clinched a playoff berth, including four division titles, leaving five spots open. Both No. 1 seeds are up for grabs with four NFC teams and three AFC teams vying for a bye a home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Houston, Chicago, Arizona, Denver, Indianapolis, Atlanta, the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams and Cleveland are out of the playoff picture. Only one game this week - Cardinals at Falcons - has no playoff ramifications.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers (7-8) and Carolina Panthers (6-9) are playing for the NFC South. The Bucs would clinch with a win. A loss means they would need to win their final game at



Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman (24) runs back an interception against the Jacksonville Jaguars for a 30-yard touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game on Sept. 13, 2015, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Atlanta and the Panthers would have to lose at New Orleans in Week 18.

"Our playoff games started last Sunday when we won, so this Sunday will be the same," Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said.

The same goes for several teams.

NFC The NFC East has a chance to send four teams to the playoffs. The Philadelphia Eagles (13-2) would clinch the division and the No. 1

seed with a win over the New Orleans Saints (6-9) this week or a victory next week against the New York Giants (8-6-1).

The Dallas Cowboys (12-4) need the Eagles to lose out and have to beat Washington (7-7-1) to win the division. Otherwise, the Cowboys will get the fifth seed and play a wild-card game on the road against the NFC South champion.

The Giants can clinch their first playoff berth since 2016

with a win over the Colts. There are several scenarios they could get in this week without a win but beating Indianapolis is the simplest one.

The Commanders can clinch by winning the final two games. Or, Washington gets in this week with a win over Cleveland and losses by Seattle, Detroit and Green Bay.

The NFC South champ will be Tampa Bay, Carolina or New Orleans.

Associated Press

Only the Buccaneers can win the division this weekend.

The Minnesota Vikings (12-3) already secured the NFC North. They still have a shot at the No. 1 seed if the Eagles lose out. They visit the Packers (7-8) on Sunday.

The Detroit Lions (7-8) have overcome a 1-6 start to be in position where they would have a chance to make the playoffs with wins over the Bears and Packers and some help one loss for both the Commanders and Seahawks.

The Packers have rebounded from a 4-8 start to set themselves up for a chance, too. They need to beat the Vikings and Lions and have the Commanders lose to either the Browns or Cowboys.

The San Francisco 49ers (11-4) are NFC West champs. They still have a shot at the No. 1 but need help.

The Seahawks (7-8) seemed like a lock for the playoffs before losing three in a row and five of six.

Now, they have to beat the New York Jets and Rams and hope the Commanders and Packers lose one each.

AFC Monday night's matchup between Buffalo and Cincinnati has major implications. □

Pelé's funeral and burial to take place in hometown Santos

By **MAURICIO SAVARESE**
AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — The stadium where Brazilian soccer great Pelé played some of the best matches of his career will also hold his funeral on Monday and Tuesday.

Santos, the club where Pelé played in Brazil, said in a statement the public will be able to pay their final respects at Vila Belmiro Stadium, outside Sao Paulo. Pelé, whose full name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, died Thursday after a long battle with cancer. He was 82.

Santos said the coffin car-



Workers set up tents at the Vila Belmiro stadium, the home of the Santos FC soccer club where soccer legend Pelé played most of his career, in Santos, Brazil, Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

rying the three-time World Cup champion will leave Albert Einstein hospital

in Sao Paulo early Monday morning and will be placed in the center circle

of the field.

Visitation will start Monday at 10 a.m. and finish the next day at the same time. Pelé's casket will be carried through the streets of Santos and will pass in front of the home of his 100-year-old mother, Celeste. Recent reports in Brazilian media say Pelé's mother cannot leave her bed and is not lucid.

The burial will take place at the Memorial Necrópole Ecumênica, a vertical cemetery in Santos. Only family will attend.

Pelé has a home in Santos, where he lived most of his life. He spent his last years

in the city of Guarujá.

Pelé had a colon tumor removed in September 2021. Neither his family nor the hospital have said whether it had spread to other organs. He returned to the Albert Einstein hospital on Nov. 29 with COVID-19 and a respiratory infection. Last week, the hospital said in a statement his cancer had advanced.

Pelé led Brazil to World Cup victory in 1958, 1962 and 1970 and remains one of the team's all-time leading scorers with 77 goals. Neymar tied Pelé's record during this year's World Cup in Qatar. □

Aaron Judge is AP male athlete of year after setting HR mark

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge has always stood out.

With the imposing size and muscular frame of an NFL tight end or NBA power forward, the 6-foot-7, 282-pound New York Yankees slugger towers over teammates and opponents on the diamond.

Never more so than in 2022. After hitting 62 home runs to break an American League record that lasted six decades, Judge has been voted The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year by a panel of 40 sports writers and editors from news outlets across the country.

The outfielder edged Los Angeles Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani, last year's winner, in voting announced Friday. Stephen Curry of the NBA champion Golden State Warriors finished third.

Judge joins an esteemed fraternity of honorees that includes Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali, Wayne Gretzky and Michael Jordan. Among the former Yankees to win were Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris the man who established the previous AL mark of 61 homers in 1961.

"Wow. That's incredible," Judge said of his selection. "All these other great athletes that not only impacted the game and their sport, but also impacted their communities and the culture in the sports world and outside the sports world.

So getting a chance to be amongst that list is an incredible honor."

Judge hit 16 more homers than any other big league player, the largest gap since Jimmie Foxx hit 58 for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1932 and Babe Ruth had 41 for the Yankees.

And while Barry Bonds holds the major league record of 73 home runs in a season for San Francisco in 2001 during baseball's steroid era, the achievement by Judge had some fans celebrating what they view as baseball's "clean" benchmark.

Maris' mark had been surpassed six times in the National League but all those players were ultimately

batted leadoff at the end of the regular season which also maximized his plate appearances while

title in 10 years. "That's one of the things I love about Aaron: He's a gentle giant in his interac-



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge follows through on a solo home run, his 62nd of the season, as Texas Rangers catcher Sam Huff, left, and umpire Randy Rosenberg, rear, look on in the first inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

stained by steroids. Mark McGwire hit 70 homers for St. Louis in 1998 and 65 the following year. Sammy Sosa had 66, 65 and 63 for the Chicago Cubs during a four-season span starting in 1998.

McGwire admitted using banned steroids, while Bonds and Sosa denied knowingly using performing-enhancing drugs. Major League Baseball didn't begin testing with penalties for PEDs until 2004.

"It's an incredible feat," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said.

Judge's astounding season was about more than just power, though.

Partly because of injuries to teammates, the rocket-armed right fielder shifted to center much of the season and provided his usual strong defense in both spots. With the Yankees missing DJ LeMahieu at the top of the lineup, Judge

pursuing Maris' record. He even stole 16 bases, seven more than his previous career high.

"He's everything," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "An amazing two-way player, one of the great players in our sport. He's an ambassador for the game."

With a bright, toothy smile that he can't hold back at times, the 30-year-old Judge led the majors in runs (133), on-base percentage (.425), slugging percentage (.686), OPS (1.111), extra-base hits (90) and total bases (391). He tied for the big league lead with 131 RBIs and finished second in the AL with a .311 batting average, falling a few points short of a Triple Crown.

And not to be overlooked, No. 99 in pinstripes played in 157 of 162 regular-season games, carrying the Yankees to their second AL East

tions with people and kids and whoever, he's kind and gentle, but he is going to rip your heart out between the lines," Boone said. "He plays the game with energy, but with a coolness and a swagger and an intensity."

Judge easily beat out Ohtani, the pitching and hitting phenom, in AL balloting to become the tallest MVP in major league history.

Without a doubt, it was one of the greatest individual seasons in baseball annals. All while playing for a new contract and shouldering the enormous weight of chasing Maris in the second half.

"I don't think there's one person that didn't marvel at that," Steinbrenner said. "It's amazing. Because it wasn't just the pressure of the home run chase. It was the pressure of, you know, what's to come?"

Just before opening day, Judge declined New York's offer of \$213.5 million over seven years (2023-29) and bet big on himself. He became a free agent in November and cashed in, getting a \$360 million, nine-year contract to re-sign with the Yankees the third-largest deal in baseball history.

Once it was done, he was appointed the team's 16th captain, and first since Derek Jeter retired following the 2014 season.

"Everything about him just screams out leader," Jeter said. "And everyone says the exact same thing."

Judge hit his 62nd home run in the penultimate game of the season Oct. 4 at Texas. With opponents pitching carefully to him, his only homer in the previous 13 games came when he matched Maris on Sept. 28 in Toronto. No. 60 came on Sept. 20 against Pittsburgh. As he approached the record, MLB Network cut in for live coverage of Judge's at-bats. Fans stood up when he stepped to the plate, going quiet on each pitch while taking photos and video with their cell-phones.

"That was a weird experience," Judge said, chuckling. "Definitely a different scene. But glad I finally got past it. It was definitely a relief."

After the Yankees won a playoff round, Judge went 1 for 16 and the team was swept in the ALCS by the World Series champion Astros.

The four-time All-Star has never reached the Series, and New York hasn't won a pennant since 2009.

"There's a lot of unfinished business here," he said.

Back in 2017, Judge slammed 52 homers to set a rookie record that was soon broken.

Now with the record and big contract, all eyes will be watching his encore in 2023.

"You never know. Maybe 62 is my floor," Judge said of expectations. "Maybe I've got a little bit more in the tank." □

Weekly SPECIALS



 <p>\$3.42 Per KG</p> <p>Peppers Green</p>	<p>WAS \$5.71</p>  <p>\$4.57 Each</p> <p>Seara Chicken Wing Stick 1KG</p>	<p>WAS \$25.14</p>  <p>\$22.85 Per KG</p> <p>Tenderloin Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$12.57</p>  <p>\$11.42 Each</p> <p>Ponche Crema Dakota Strawberry 700ml</p>		
 <p>\$1.71 Per KG</p> <p>Cabbage Green USA</p>	<p>WAS \$8.56</p>  <p>\$5.71 Per KG</p> <p>Sla-Vinken</p>	<p>WAS \$3.19</p>  <p>\$2.68 Each</p> <p>Gwoon Blanke Rozijnen 375gr</p>	<p>WAS \$5.02</p>  <p>\$4.28 Each</p> <p>Pace Sauce Picante Mild 24oz</p>	<p>WAS \$5.14</p>  <p>\$3.99 Each</p> <p>Frikandellen 20st</p>	
<p>WAS \$3.65</p>  <p>\$3.08 Each</p> <p>Planters Cheese Curls 4oz</p>	<p>WAS \$1.88</p>  <p>\$1.42 Each</p> <p>Gwoon Sperziebonen Gebroken 680gr</p>	<p>WAS \$3.99</p>  <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>Yolis Lonchera Plantain Mix Chips 6ct 40gr</p>	<p>WAS \$1.88</p>  <p>\$1.65 Each</p> <p>Bolletje Echte Beschuit 13st</p>	<p>WAS \$5.02</p>  <p>\$4.28 Each</p> <p>Hawaiian Punch Orange 128oz</p>	
<p>WAS \$5.14</p>  <p>\$4.57 Each</p> <p>Ola Magnum White/Classic 4x110ml</p>	<p>WAS \$2.45</p>  <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>Handzeep Splash to bloom Strawberry 500ml</p>	<p>WAS \$1.48</p>  <p>\$1.31 100 GR</p> <p>Cooked Ham 35%</p>	<p>WAS \$8.85</p>  <p>\$7.14 Each</p> <p>Gortons Crispy Battered Fish 6pk</p>	<p>WAS \$1.99</p>  <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>Dumil Trekbandzakken 38L</p>	<p>WAS \$1.54</p>  <p>\$1.25 100 GR</p> <p>American White Cheese</p>

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